"ANALYSIS OF LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY ACT 1987 AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPLEMENTATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RAJASTHAN"

Synopsis of the Research Proposal
Submitted for Registration in the

Ph.D. Program (Part-Time) in Law

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

LSA - Legal Service Authorities Act

NALSA – National legal services authority

SLSA – State Legal Services Authority

DLSA – District Legal Services Authority

TLSA – Taluka Legal Services Authority

RALSA/RSLSA – Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

ADR – Alternative Dispute Resolution

PIL – Public Interest Litigation

UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

CrPC – CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

JJ ACT – Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act

NGO – Non- Governmental Organization

ABSTRACT

The legal services authority act, 1987 fulfils India's constitutional responsibility of providing free legal help and fair justice to people under articles 14, 21, and 39A. It establishes a three-tier institutional framework for national legal services authority (NALSA), state legal services authorities (SLSA), and district/taluka legal services authorities (DLSA). These institution provide legal services such as free legal representation, lok adalats, and legal awareness programs. Despite the strong framework the act faces various challenges such as socio economic inequality, rural isolation and limited infrastructure that often creates obstacles for marginalised population from accessing justice.

This research proposal evaluates the acts efficacy and implementation of the act in Rajasthan using mixed method approach. Primary data will be collected through structured questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and observations from 100-150 beneficiaries and 100-150 legal aid providers in selected districts, applying convenience and random sampling methods. Secondary data will be sourced from legal texts, case law, reports (such as NALSA and law commission) research articles, and comparative studies from the UK, USA, and South Africa. Quantitative data will be analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency, mean, median) in excel, whereas qualitative data will be examined through thematic analysis.

The study critically examines the act's alignment with constitutional objectives and assesses the effectiveness of mechanisms such as lok adalats. It also identifies key obstacles including lack of awareness, poor quality of presentation and structured barriers to access. Hypotheses suggest that while lok adalat offers speedy dispute resolution they sometimes result in biased or superficial settlement and that multiple structured barriers continue to hinder the progress. The expected outcomes include evidence based policy recommendation for improving legal literacy, infrastructure, monitoring, and integrating pro bono services and promoting inclusive justice delivery. By reducing the gap between constitutional goals and practical reality this research seek to strengthen the legal aid system in Rajasthan and India and ensuring fair and equal access to justice for the people.

1. INTRODUCTION

Judicial access is one of the Indian Constitution fundamental promises. Our Constitution recognized that the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity would remain futile unless individuals particularly those from marginalized and economically weaker sections were allowed to exercise their rights practically. Articles 14 and article 21 of the constitution guarantees equality before the law as well as right to live with dignity and freedom while Article 39A of the 42nd amendment which was added in 1976 imposes a positive obligation on the State to secure equal justice and provide free representation in the court to ensure equality of opportunities and equal treatment are not denied for any mundane reason of economic or other challenges. Article 39a of the constitution makes legal aid a part of the rule of law and democratic governance in India.

In 1987, Parliament enacted the Legal Services Authorities Act to make this vision into reality. This resulted in a three tier institutional architecture for the delivery of legal aid services across the country: the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at the central level, State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) in every state, and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) along with Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) at the local level. The Act proposes to provide free legal services to those in need , organizing Lok Adalats for expeditious and amicable dispute resolution, establishing legal literacy and awareness programs, and establishing legal aid clinics to bring services closer to the masses. This approach in theory is one of the most ambitious legal aid system in the Global South since it combines legal support with a more democratic way of providing it.

But, challenges are a many. Despite decades of statutory existence, the legal aid system continues to get marred with issues of outreach, efficiency, quality, and credibility. Large segments of the eligible population remain unaware of their rights. Even when individuals are aware, procedural barriers, bureaucratic delays, and low confidence in the competence of empanelled lawyers often discourage them from taking support of these services. The remuneration offered to legal aid lawyers is extremely modest, which leads to low motivation and, in many cases, representation only for name and not substance. Lok-Adalats, which were designed to reduce backlog and offer speedy relief, are sometimes criticized for prioritizing fake disposal over substantive justice, resulting in unjust compromises rather than meaningful justice.

This acutely affects Rajasthan, a state marred by significant socio-economic diversity and deep structural inequalities. The state is bejewelled by Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Udaipur, but

also vast rural and tribal areas where poverty, illiteracy, and social exclusion are common place. Marginalized communities including women, children, minorities, Dalits, Adivasis, and under trial prisoners face heightened barriers to justice due to deep rooted social hierarchies, gender discrimination, economic hardship, and lack of awareness. The travails of desert terrain and remote tribal belts further compounds problems of physical access to courts and legal services. In such a context, the performance of the Legal Services Authorities framework becomes a critical lens through which to measure the inclusiveness and effectiveness of the justice delivery system.

Additionally, empirical data from Rajasthan suggests a paradoxical sight. On one hand, institutions such as the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RALSA) and the DLSAs have been active in conducting Lok Adalats, organizing awareness drives, and setting up legal-aid clinics. For instance, national Lok Adalats in Rajasthan have disposed of millions of cases in past years, reflecting a significant contribution to reducing pending cases. On the other hand, questions remain about whether these achievements translate into meaningful justice for the poor and challenged. Sheer volume of disposals may conceal compromises on fairness, voluntariness, and substantive results. Similarly, while legal aid lawyers are appointed in large numbers, their accountability and the quality of representation remain under scrutiny even under oath of transparency in service.

The research problem thus lies in the gap between the normative promise of the LSA Act and its practical implementation in Rajasthan. The Act envisions equal and effective access to justice, yet these lived experiences of marginalized groups often tell a different story. Understanding this challenge requires examining multiple dimensions: the level of awareness among potential beneficiaries; the accessibility and timeliness of services; the quality of representation by legal aid lawyers; the effectiveness of Lok Adalats and mediation processes; the impact of socio-economic factors such as caste, gender, and income on access to justice; and the institutional capacity of RALSA and DLSAs in terms of funding, manpower, training, assessing and monitoring.

The significance of studying the state of Rajasthan comes from its universality. It has characteristics both developed and underdeveloped regions, urban sophistication and rural deprivation strongly established caste and gender structures and rising legal awareness. By focusing on Rajasthan, this research study not only provides deeper insights into the working of the Legal Services Authorities framework in one of India’s biggest states but it also provides lessons that may be applicable to the legal aid movement across the country.

The purpose of this study is to provide an in depth and conceptual assessment of the legal aid services authorities act's challenges and efficacy in Rajasthan. It seeks to develop evidence based suggestions that will strengthen the state's legal aid delivery system by analysing and integrating doctrinal analysis, empirical fieldwork, and comparative intellectual perspectives. This kind of study is not only for academic significance but it has a broad implications for the fulfilment of constitutional justice in India. A strong and responsive legal aid system is required to ensure that justice is not a privilege that is provided to few but it is a right to all who comes under Indian democracy.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. **Dr. Muktai Deb Chavan(2025), The Indian Journal For Research In Law And Management[1]:**

   This paper looks at several ways of teaching clinical law and how they fit into the law school curriculum. It also talks about what is happening now and what is planned for the future of clinical legal education in India. It also talks about the idea of clinical legal education, where it came from and the most important parts of it. This shows how important clinical teaching is in legal education.

2. **Srikrishna Deva Rao (2025), Why Not A Clinical Law School With Socially Relevant Legal Education[2]:**

   This article looks at the future of clinical legal education in India with the goal of closing the justice gap by promoting legal education that is relevant to society. It also looks at how Indian legal education has changed over time and how clinical legal education has affected the teaching methods and legal aid and how it hasn't been able to meet the needs of marginalised communities. Because of these things it calls for urgent changes such as transformative pedagogy, ethical lawyer and community engagement in order to make lawyers who are socially relevant and close the justice gap.

[1] Dr. Muktai Deb Chavan, "Clinical Teaching Methods in Legal Education: Current Practices and Future Plans for CLE in India" (2025) the Indian Journal for Research in Law and Management.

[2] Srikrishna Deva Rao, "Why Not a Clinical Law School with Socially Relevant Legal Education" (2025).

3. **Priya Desai (2024), Impact Of Legal Aid Accessibility on Case Outcomes In Criminal Justice In India, American Journal Of Law[3]:**

   This study investigates and evaluates the impact of legal aid accessibility on criminal case outcomes in India, utilizing secondary data from published studies and reports. The findings shows that defendants who receive legal aid achieve better results including fair trial, reduced sentences, acquittals and higher plea bargaining rates. Legal aid improves preparation, advocacy and equity in justice system reducing judicial burdens. Implications include that future research should be based on theories such as legal mobilisation, resource dependency and access to justice with recommendation for improved legal aid models infrastructure investments and policy reforms to guarantee equitable access.

4. **Dr. Subhra Bakul Karmakar & Dr. Kavita Lama (2024), Legal Aid Service and Access to Justice with Special Reference to Pro Bono Culture Model: A New Dimension of Legal Education in India[4]:**

   This paper reviews the role of legal aid services in improving access to justice in India focusing on the pro bono culture model as an innovative approach in legal education.it looks at how pro bono initiatives, programs like Nyaya Bandhu which is run by the Department of Justice that fits with Article 39A of the constitution. Which says that everyone should get equal justice. The authors stress the need of including pro bono work in law school courses to help create lawyers who are socially responsible. They talk about problems such as lack of institutional support and awareness and they call for stronger policy frameworks to make pro bono culture a part of law education to help close the justice gap.

[3] Priya Desai, "Impact of Legal Aid Accessibility on Case Outcomes in Criminal Justice in India" (2024) American Journal of Law.

[4] Subhra Bakul Karmakar & Kavita Lama, "Legal Aid Service and Access to Justice with Special Reference to Pro Bono Culture Model: A New Dimension of Legal Education in India" (2024).

5. **Milendra Singh & Saman Narayan Upadhyay(2024), Digitization Of Legal Aids Services And Criminal Justice To The Detainees In India[5]:**
   This paper presents a micro analysis of the legal aid services scheme and the effect of its digitization on the administration of criminal justice in India.

6. **Srinibas Praharaj(2024), The Pinnacle of Judiciary Parity: Right to counsel and Access to Legal Aid from Arrest to Acquittal under Indian Criminal Law[6]:**
   This article examines the right to legal defence and free legal aid within India's criminal justice system focusing on judicial equality as stated under Article 39A. It discusses legal aid from arrest to acquittal highlighting court initiatives such as Prisoner Legal Aid Clinics. There are still systemic problems like shortages in funding and awareness. He advocates for measures to improve legal aid delivery.

7. **Anubhab Mukherjee (2024), Efficacy of Legal Aid Bridging the Justice Gap[7]:**
   In his paper "Efficacy of legal aid bridging the justice gap" he talks about how the courts define the term 'legal aid'. He emphasizes on Justice P.N. Bhawati's contribution to legal aid and the expansion of article 21's reach.

8. **Dr. Rekha Pundir(2024), Access to Justice in Rural and Marginalized Communities[8]:**
   Despite constitutional provisions this study looks at challenges to justice for rural and vulnerable people such as scheduled caste, tribes, women, and the economically weaker section of the society. It studies the effectiveness of legal aid services, lok adalats and mobile courts, pointing out issues such as geographical inaccessibility, legal illiteracy and social hierarchy. New ideas are being explored such as legal awareness programs and community paralegal models, but they aren't always put into practice which shows

[5] Milendra Singh & Saman Narayan Upadhyay, "Digitization of Legal Aid Services and Criminal Justice to the Detainees in India" (2024).

[6] Srinibas Praharaj, "The Pinnacle of Judiciary Parity: Right to be Defended and Access to Legal Aid from Arrest to Acquittal under Indian Criminal Law" (2024).

[7] Anubhab Mukherjee, "Efficacy of Legal Aid Bridging the Justice Gap" (2024).

[8] Rekha Pundir, "Access to Justice in Rural and Marginalized Communities" (2024)

that reform based on rights and inclusion are needed. Suggestion are centred on enhancing last mile connection, legal awareness and procedural improvements.

9. **Iftikhar Hussain Bhat(2023), Access To Justice: A Sociological Perspective On Legal Aid In India[9]:**

   This research paper explores sociological perspectives on access to justice through legal aid initiatives in India focusing on the relationship between law and societal structures such as gender. Caste and class intersections. It uses what scholars have learned to make a case for legal aid programs that are open to everyone and tailored to the needs of different social groups. Practical suggestions for making things easier to get to include culturally responsive aid using technology working with other groups in the community and simplifying processes. The study says, strategies for bringing about social change should be constantly evaluated and changed. It also says that sociology should be added to legal framework to make society fairer.

10. **Anmol Kaur(2023), A Critical Analysis of Legal Aid Services in India: With a Special Reference to Lok Adalats[10]:**

    Legal aid programs are very important to make sure that everyone can get justice especially people who don't have much money. Legal aid is very important in India because many people face social and economic difficulties. It is necessary to fill in the gaps in making the legal system fair and just. This include legal advice. Representation in courts or tribunal pleading and even ways to resolve dispute without going to court. One important thing about legal aid in India is the creation of lok adalats. These courts are meant to settle disagreements peacefully. It is important to stress the role of lok adalats in easing the load on regular courts and promoting a cultural of mediation and conciliation. Advocates, lawyers, social workers and legal aid professionals all work together to fix the unfairness in the system that makes it hard for people to get justice. Lok adalat is one of the fastest ways to provide justice to those in need. So it preserves and supports a fair judicial system. This study seeks to examine the legal framework governing lok adalats. Alongside legislative laws, their establishment and functions. It explains how important lok adalat are to the Indian legal system.

[9] Iftikhar Hussain Bhat, "Access to Justice: A Sociological Perspective on Legal Aid in India" (2023).
[10] Anmol Kaur, "A Critical Analysis of Legal Aid Services in India: With a Special Reference to Lok Adalats" (2023)

11. **Mrinmay Karmakar(2023), The Role of Legal Aid In Protecting the Rights of Prisoners[11]:**

    This paper discusses the importance of legal aid is for protecting prisoner's rights in India, especially when in matters of bail and fair trials. It talks about the legal service authorities' act, 1987 which makes sure that criminals can get free legal help. Inadequate prison legal aid clinics and lack of awareness are two major challenges. He says that more enforcement is needed to preserve the rights of the citizens in need.

12. **Mr. Supriyo Chaudhur & Dr. Amitabh Singh (2022), Contribution Of Law Commissions In Framing The Mechanism Of Legal Aid In India[12]**:

    After independence, India faced the challenges of ensuring justice for all as mandated by the constitution. Based on the recommendations from the bhagwati and harries committees, various law commission focused on legal aid for the poor. Later commissions such as the 41st, 48th emphasized the need for legal aid in both criminal and civil cases, especially for marginalised groups like women, scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and minorities. In 1976, 42nd amendment introduced article 39A which was followed by the legal service authorities' act of 1987 to ensure accessible justice and the 131st law commission reinforced the states duty to secure justice for all.

13. **Ajay Singh Rathore (2022), Article 39a: Is Pro Bono Legal Aid Comeatable?[13]:**

    The legal system has always been a part of society because it allows people to protect their freedom, liberty and right to seek justice. Modern laws sometimes do not protect individuals who need help right away like those in need and those who can't afford expensive courts.

[11] Mrinmay Karmakar, "The Role of Legal Aid in Protecting the Rights of Prisoners" (2023).

[12] Supriyo Chaudhuri & Amitabh Singh, "Contribution of Law Commissions in Framing the Mechanism of Legal Aid in India" (2022).

[13] Ajay Singh Rathore, "Article 39A: Is Pro Bono Legal Aid Comeatable?" (2022)

14. **Nishita Kirty(2021), Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid[14]:**

    This paper investigates the implementation of the concept of justice, examines the applicability of free legal aid, and provides an overview of article 39a implementation in India.

15. **K Rajashree & Sonika Bhadwaj(2021), India's Law School Legal Aid Clinics: The Gaps between Aspiration and Practice[15]**:

    This article looks at how the bar council of India wanted Indian law schools to set up legal aid clinics. It shows how they are not being used consistently because the goals are not clear the faculty training is not good enough and they are not being included in regular legal education. The clinics don't always help close the justice gap for the people who are already at the disadvantage. The authors want structural changes to make clinics more in line with article 39a's purpose of equal justice.

16. **Asri Wijayanti(2017), Legal Aid for Marginal Communities[16]:**

    This study looked into the legal aid services for children in conflict with the law in observation hoes as required by the constitution (article 39a,14 22(1) and section 12 of legal service authorities act. Data from case files and family interviews showed that the environment was corrupt and exploitative with legal aid lawyers pretending to be private lawyers and charging for services that were free. The findings which were submitted to the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority highlighted these issues and led to improve access to justice.

17. **Tushaus, D. W., Gupta, S. Kr., & Kapoor (2015), S., India Legal Aid Clinics: Creating Service Learning Research Projects To Study Social Justice, Asian Journal of Legal Education[17]**:

    This Article addresses the dual purpose of law school legal aid clinics in India, which enhances student's legal education through experimental learning while also enhancing community access to justice. The research demonstrates how service learning fosters analytical and critical thinking skills among students. The findings indicate that the

[14] Nishita Kirty, "Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid" (2021).
[15] K Rajashree & Sonika Bhadwaj, "India's Law School Legal Aid Clinics: The Gaps between Aspiration and Practice" (2021)
[16] Asri Wijayanti, "Legal Aid for Marginal Communities" (2017)
[17] Tushaus, D.W., Gupta, S.Kr. & Kapoor, S., "India Legal Aid Clinics: Creating Service Learning Research Projects to Study Social Justice" (2015) Asian Journal of Legal Education

global legal clinics movement has established a promising presence in India. However its effectiveness remains limited due to restrictive representation. The study recommends reforms such as introducing electric credits and enabling direct client representation to strengthen the impact of these clinics.

18. **Rebecca L. Sandefur(2015), Bridging the Gap: Rethinking Outreach for Greater Access to Justice[18]:**
    This study investigates the disparity between the number of people who could benefit from legal assistance and those who actually receive it.

19. **Sakshi Gopal Choubey(2014), Legal Aid and Awareness - Constitutional Discussion[19]:**
    This study examines Legal Aid and its awareness in the context of the constitution and Legal Services Authority Act in order to determine the real implementation and status of Legal Aid in India.

20. **Frank S. Bloch & Iqbal S. Ishar(1991), Legal Aid, Public Service and Clinical Legal Education: Future Directions from India and the United States[20]:**
    This paper explains the significance of clinical legal education in ensuring justice for the needy. It also discuss the significance of clinical programme in law schools.

RESEARCH GAP-

The study on legal aid has some flaws. Most studies depend on secondary data or focus on single site rather than comparing different regions or countries. There is insufficient evidence on how effective digital legal assistance is particular for those who have limited internet access or technological competence. Some studies discuss about groups that are on the marginalised list but they don't go into detail on specific groups such as Scheduled Castes, Tribes, or women. Law school clinics, pro bono work and lok adalats are frequently praised for their work but there is little proof of their real impact. Finally, as said, certain studies may not include a wide

[18] Rebecca L. Sandefur, "Bridging the Gap: Rethinking Outreach for Greater Access to Justice" (2015).

[19] Sakshi Gopal Choubey, "Legal Aid and Awareness – Constitutional Discussion" (2014).

[20] Frank S. Bloch & Iqbal S. Ishar, "Legal Aid, Public Service and Clinical Legal Education: Future Directions from India and the United States" (1991).

range of views because of biased sampling. A more comprehensive, data-driven study comparing geographies, including marginalized populations, and evaluating digital tools and policies could close these gaps.

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

One of the most important parts of a democracy is that everyone has access to justice. Article 39A of the India's Constitution requires the state to provide free legal aid to people so that no one is denied justice just because they are poor or marginalized. To fulfil constitutional requirement the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987 was enacted and legal aid organizations were established at the national, state, district, and taluka levels. On paper, this appears to be a strong system that will secure equal justice to all. However, in reality things have not gone as expected. Research studies and official publications shows a significant difference between the laws promise and its actual implementation.

According to government records states, millions of cases are settled through Lok Adalats, or legal assistance agencies. However, these figures frequently mask the poor quality of legal assistance provided to the public. Many legal assistance lawyers are overworked, underpaid, or lack proper training. As a result, people who should have strong support frequently receive inadequate or no representation in court. Women who have been victims of violence, Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, under trial criminals, juveniles, and underprivileged communities are especially vulnerable. These individuals are the most in need of legal assistance, yet they frequently face barriers in accessing it. Reasons include:

1. Lack of understanding about free legal aid programs.
2. Social stigma or fear of approaching legal institutions.
3. Complex bureaucratic procedures.
4. Inadequate infrastructure in rural and tribal areas, where legal aid centres are missing or inactive.

Another important flaw is the lack of accountability in India's legal assistance system. Unlike other countries with a proper public defender model (in which dedicated lawyers are appointed and frequently overseen), India relies primarily on empaneled lawyers who are hired for specific cases. Their work is rarely supervised so the quality of legal assistance not guaranteed. Beneficiaries sometimes face hasty agreement in Lok Adalats rather than fair trials to protect their rights.

This creates a gap between the rights the law guaranteed and the rights people can actually use. PILs (Public Interest Litigations) and judicial activism have improved access to justice in some cases but citizens at the ground level continue to be denied free and fair legal representation. Few studies or assessment exist that measure the real impact of legal aid programs on marginalised communities.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1. This paper contributes to academic literature by analysing the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 in Rajasthan.
2. The research suggest policy recommendations for strengthening Lok Adalats in Rajasthan.
3. The empirical study will help in providing practical tools and techniques for faster case resolution, increased courts efficiency and equitable access to legal aid for vulnerable groups.
4. The findings will assist the policymakers, legal authorities, judiciary, NGOs, and civil society in Rajasthan and other jurisdiction to create a more inclusive legal ecosystem.

5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To look into the history, philosophy and purpose of the Legal Services Authority Act of 1987 in relation to constitutional mandates.
2. To analyse the institutional structure of legal service authorities in Rajasthan including National, State, District, and Taluka levels.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of Lok Adalats, Legal Aid Clinics, and other operations under the Act.
4. To identify the problems in implementing the Act in Rajasthan such as awareness, resources, quality of representation, and accessibility.
5. To suggest changes to the law and policy makers that will make legal aid services better in Rajasthan and make sure that these changes are carried out anywhere.

6. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How effectively has the Legal Services Authority Act 1987 lived up to its constitutional duty to provide free and effective legal aid in Rajasthan?

2. How successful is the legal service network established under the statute in Rajasthan state?
3. How much have lok adalats and other form of mediation under the act improved access to justice?
4. What challenges and limitations exist in the implementation of the Act in Rajasthan?
5. What reforms or policy actions are necessary to enhance the effectiveness and people centricity of legal service authorities in Rajasthan and across India?

7. HYPOTHESES

1. **H1:** The Legal Services Authority Ac 1987 has increased access to justice however there are significant shortcomings in Rajasthan.
2. **H2:** lack of awareness awareness, infrastructure and monitoring have hindered the success of legal assistance programs in Rajasthan.
3. **H3:** though Lok Adalats provide quick and affordable justice yet their efficiency in guaranteeing fairness and quality of justice is still debatable.
4. **H4:** Improving legal literacy and implementing systemic reforms might enhance the effectiveness Rajasthan's Legal Service Authority Act.

8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study uses a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative, quantitative, analytical, and comparative approaches for examining the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 in Rajasthan:

Sources of Data

Primary Data

Primary data will be gathered directly from people involved in legal aid services.

Secondary Data

Secondary data will be obtained from existing sources to support the study:

Legal Texts, Reports, case laws, Scholarly articles, journals, books (e.g., works by Upendra Baxi), and legal databases (e.g., SCC Online, Manupatra). Guidelines from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and studies on legal aid systems in South Africa, the UK, and the USA.

Universe of the Study:

The study will include retired Lok Adalat judges, advocates handling Lok Adalat cases, para-legal volunteers, and beneficiaries of legal aid services in Rajasthan. While lakhs of people access these services annually, the study will focus on selected districts.

Sampling Technique and sample size:

The current study will use convenience and random sampling strategies. I will get the list of beneficiaries from the state legal service authority (SLSA) and use that to choose the people who will answer. The mixed method approach combines quantitative data such as statistical analysis of surveys to get measurable information about awareness, access as satisfaction with qualitative data such as interviews and field observation to get deep insights into the challenges and lived experiences of beneficiaries and legal aid providers.

Data Collection Tools:

Structured surveys through a questionnaire for beneficiaries to collect information on their demographics, awareness of legal aid, accessibility, and satisfaction levels. Semi-structured interviews with legal aid providers (e.g., lawyers, judicial officers) to understand their perspectives. Direct observation of Lok Adalats, legal literacy camps, and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) offices to assess operations.

Analysis:

The data collected will be analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency, mean, and median). The Excel will be used to draw frequency, mean, and median. In addition, the qualitative data will be analysed through thematic analysis.

9. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- Concentrates on the Legal Services Authority Act 1987 particularly relation to Rajasthan.
- Examines the operation of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA), District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), and Lok Adalats in certain districts.
- Empirical findings from RSLSA, DLSAs, and Lok Adalats.
- Uses non-probability purposive sampling of 150-200 beneficiaries and 100-150 legal aid providers.
- Conduct questionnaires and interviews to examine accessibility and efficacy of legal aid services.

Limitations of the Study

- Limited to Rajasthan and few other districts so it can't be applied to other Indian states or the whole country without further comparisons.
- Non-probability purposive sample may not represent the whole range of legal aid consumer's results in biased findings.
- Using self-reported data from questionnaires and interviews could be affected by recollection bias or social desirability which could make the answer less accurate.
- Logistical challenges in remote areas may restrict data collection from specific populations.
- Data availability from RSLSA, DLSAs and Lok Adalats as well as respondent willingness and geographical variance in legal aid functioning.

10. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This research is expected to result in evidence based policy recommendations aimed at strengthening Rajasthan's legal aid framework and aligning it with article 39A's constitutional mandate. It aims to suggest practical changes to increase legal literacy, infrastructure, monitoring and accountability mechanisms within legal service agencies. It is expected to deliver legal aid services in more effective and inclusive manner, ensuring equal access to justice for marginalised groups. Additionally, the study intends to evaluate and change the operation of lok adalats in order to promote fairness, voluntaries and substantive justice rather than just case settlement. It will also help in bridging the existing gap between constitutional

ideals and ground realities by integrating pro-bono services, community based legal aid models and competitive insights from international frameworks resulting in a more transparent, accessible and people centric justice system in Rajasthan.

S. No.	Phases	Months	Targets
1.	1	1-6 months	Conduct a comprehensive Literature Review and Gap Identification, Ethics clearance.
2.	2	7-12 months	Study the secondary data: study of legal services authorities, visits to NLSA, SLSA, DLSA, Taluka level, preliminary study of case laws, comparative legal study.
3.	3	13-15 months	Preparation of data collection tools and their testing/ identification of legal issues.
4.	4	16-21 months	Complete Data collection/analysis of the issues to search the law
5.	5	22-24 months	Arranging the data collected. Feeding, decoding of data, and Tabulation of data/Making of chapters and review by the guide.

6.	6	25-32months	Interpretation and Analysis of data collected, Compilation of material, and report writing
7.	7	33-36 months	Final editing and proofing of thesis.

11. RESEARCH TIMELINE

12. **Bibliography**

A. List of Statutes

- Legal Services Authorities Act 1987
- National legal service authority
- State legal service authority
- District legal service authority
- Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Section 304: Legal aid to accused at State expense)
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (Provisions for legal aid to children)

B. **Law Journals**

- Harvard Law Review
- NYU Law & Economics Research Paper Series
- Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics (JITE)
- National Law School of India Review
- International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understandings
- The Journal of Indian Law Institute
- Legal Lock Journal
- International Journal of Law, Policy and Social Review

C. **REPORTS, MANUALS & DIGESTS**

- Law commission report
- NALSAReport
- DLSA Report
- SLSA Report

D. **MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND WEEKLY**

- The Hindu
- The Times of India
- Live law
- Legal Era Magazine

E. WEBSITES VISITED

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